

REMARKS

Status Summary

Claims 1, 2, 5 – 13, and 16-24 are pending in the present application. In this amendment, no claims have been added and no claims have been canceled. Therefore, upon entry of this amendment, claims 1, 2, 5 – 13, and 16-24 remain pending.

Claim Rejection – 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claim 21 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 21 has been amended as suggested in the Official Action. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claim 21 should be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In light of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and an early notice to such effect is earnestly solicited.

If any small matter should remain outstanding after the Patent Examiner has had an opportunity to review the above Remarks, the Patent Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned patent attorney in order to resolve these matters and avoid the issuance of another Official Action.

Serial No.: 10/599,088

DEPOSIT ACCOUNT

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with the filing of this correspondence to Deposit Account No. 50-0426.

Respectfully submitted,

JENKINS, WILSON, TAYLOR & HUNT, P.A.

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By:


Shandon W. Herring
Registration No. 60,049
Customer No. 25297

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